

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 03001 281736Z

65

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCA-01 CU-02 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-02

INR-07 IO-10 L-02 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03

PRS-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2451

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 3001

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CSCE, PFOR, XG

SUBJ: CSCE: HUMAN CONTACTS -- MEANING OF "SOCIAL  
ORGANIZATIONS" AS USED IN TRAVEL TEXT

REF: STATE 86451

1. AS REQUESTED BY REFTTEL, WE HAVE SOUGHT BETTER  
DEFINITION OF THE TERM "SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS," AS USED  
IN AUSTRIAN AND SOVIET VERSIONS OF PARA 5 OF TRAVEL  
TEXT. NEITHER AUSTRIANS NOR SOVIETS HAVE BEEN ABLE  
TO PROVIDE A VERY PRECISE DEFINITION OF WHAT THEY  
MEAN BY THIS TERM, BUT DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE AWARE  
THAT THE WORD "SOCIAL" WAS INTRODUCED IN BOTH TEXTS  
WHEN SOVIETS AGREED (AT INSISTENCE OF USEL) TO MODIFY  
THE FORMULATION THEY ORIGINALLY PROPOSED FOR THIS  
PHRASE: "AND AMONG OTHER NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZA-  
TIONS WHOSE ACTIVITIES ARE AIMED TOWARD THE REINFORCE-  
MENT OF FRIENDLY RELATIONS AMONG THE PARTICIPATING  
STATES." THE PHRASE WHICH NOW APPEARS IN THE AUSTRIAN  
AND SOVIET TEXTS-- "SOCIAL AND OTHER NON-GOVERNMENTAL  
ORGANIZATIONS"--IS THUS INTENDED AS A COMPROMISE  
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PAGE 02 GENEVA 03001 281736Z

WHICH MAY HELP TO MEET SOVIET DESIRES AND YET BE

GENERAL ENOUGH TO BE ACCEPTABLE TO WESTERN COUNTRIES.

2. THE WORD WHICH THE SOVIETS HAVE USED IN THEIR ORIGINAL RUSSIAN TEXT--"OBSSHCHYESTVYENNIY ORGANIZATSIY"--PROBABLY SHOULD MORE PROPERLY BE TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH AS "PUBLIC ORGANIZATIONS," ALTHOUGH THE DICTIONARY PERMITS TRANSLATION AS "SOCIAL". THE SOVIETS ADMIT THIS AND SAY THE TERM IS MEANT TO DESCRIBE "ANY ORGANIZATION OPEN TO THE PUBLIC," WHICH WE BELIEVE THEY WOULD INTERPRET AS COVERING, INTER ALIA, SO-CALLED "MASS ORGANIZATIONS," INCLUDING LABOR GROUPS. WE HAVE POINTED OUT THAT IN AMERICAN USAGE "SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS" USUALLY REFERS TO FRATERNAL AND OTHER CLUBS WHOSE SOLE PURPOSE IS THE PLEASURE THE MEMBERS GAIN FROM MEETING WITH ONE ANOTHER. WE HAVE NOTED THAT THE TERM MAY THUS APPEAR SOMEWHAT FRIVOLOUS IN THIS TEXT, BUT HAVE NOT MADE AN ISSUE OF IT. IN FACT, WE BELIEVE THE USE OF THIS TERM WOULD HELP TO PLACE EMPHASIS, AT LEAST IN THE WESTERN LANGUAGE VERSIONS, ON THE HUMAN CONTACTS ASPECT OF THE TRAVEL TEXT.

3. IN VIEW OF THIS BACKGROUND, WE ARE NOT PARTICULARLY BOTHERED BY THE TERM "SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS," AND HOPE THE DEPARTMENT WILL ALLOW US THE FLEXIBILITY TO ACCEPT THIS TERM IF IT PROVES USEFUL TO DO SO IN ORDER TO REACH AGREEMENT ON THE TRAVEL TEXT AS A WHOLE.

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